

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

Appointment to the State Textbook Commission

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.405 (2)

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendation for an appointment to the State Textbook Commission?

Background/History:

Existing Policy. In accordance with KRS 156.405(2), the Kentucky Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer, approves the appointments of members to the State Textbook Commission for terms of four years.

The State Textbook Commission oversees the state adoption process for textbooks and instructional materials. It consists of ten members who represent the various areas of the Commonwealth--two (2) parents, two (2) administrators, five (5) teachers, and one (1) higher education representative. Their responsibilities include approving substitutions, establishing the state multiple list, approving membership for a statewide review team, and developing an evaluation instrument for each adoption group with the assistance of the review team.

Individuals currently serving on the Commission are as follows:

John W. Hardy, teacher, Grant County Schools (Grant County)
David McFadden, teacher, North Laurel High School, London (Laurel County)
Catherine R. Fernandez, district-wide teacher (Henderson County)
Donna Lovell, administrator, Berea Independent Schools (Madison County)
Dr. Deneia Thomas, parent (Fayette County)
Barbara M. Waltrip, teacher, Audubon Elementary, Owensboro (Daviness County)
Cherissa Eden, parent (Shelby County)
Dr. Cynthia Houston, higher education, Western Kentucky University (Warren County)
Vasco Perry, teacher representative (Hardin County)

According to KRS 156.405(2), the State Textbook Commission is required to have ten members. As of June 2011, the term of Katrina Slone ended, creating a vacancy on the Commission.

Mark E. Thomas is proposed to serve as an administrator representative on the State Textbook Commission. Mr. Thomas currently serves as Executive Director of Instruction for Nelson County Schools. Past administrative experience includes Instructional Supervisor, Assistant Superintendent, School Principal and School Assistant Principal. He has twelve years of teaching experience covering mathematics, science, and reading for 6th grade and 8th grade. Mr. Thomas' textbook-related experience includes serving as a member of a school-based decision making council and on a district-wide textbook selection committee, as well as supervisory roles for school and district textbook decisions.

Mr. Thomas states that in order for students to be successful, instructional resources must be aligned to the standards that the students are required to master. He further states that textbooks and other instructional resources should be used to provide resources to assist the students in attaining mastery of the curricular standards.

If this member is approved, the composition of the State Textbook Commission will represent all areas of the state, will consist of three (4) males and seven (6) females, will be composed of two (2) African-Americans and eight (8) Caucasians, and meet the requirements set forth in statute.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends that the board approve the appointment of Mark E. Thomas to the State Textbook Commission. The applicant is fully qualified to be a member of the Commission.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency Efforts:

This process ensures that teachers and students have access to the most current instructional resources in a variety of formats and learning levels.

Contact person:

Felicia Smith, Associate Commissioner
Office of Next Generation Learners
(502) 564-9850
Felicia.smith@education.ky.gov

Commissioner of Education

Date:

February 2012